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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJ: MYONGDONG TRIAL: SECOND APPEAL SESSION

REF: SEOUL 9054

SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 20 COURT HEARD THREE DEFENSE WITNESSES - PROFESSOR CHANG WON-CHONG, ASSEMBLYMAN O SE-UNG AND CHON KWAN-U, EX-CHIEF OF TONGA ILBO. LAST TWO WITNESSES BOLSTERED DEFENSE POSITION BUT FIRST WAS NOT (RPT NOT) ABLE TO SUPPORT DEFENDANTS' ALLEGATIONS OF FAILURE OF ROKG ECONOMIC POLICY. KIM TAE-CHUNG PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN QUESTIONING WITNESSES. END SUMMARY.

1. SECOND SESSION OF APPEAL IN MYONGDONG TRIAL HELD NOVEMBER 20. COURT ANNOUNCED THAT DR. YU CHIN O WHO HAD BEEN CALLED AS DEFENSE WITNESS HAD DECLINED TO APPEAR ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH. DR. YU MAY BE CALLED LATER.

2. MORNING'S WITNESS WAS PROFESSOR CHANG WON-CHONG OF TONGKUK UNIVERSITY, AN ECONOMIST WHO HAD WRITTEN SEVERAL TREATISES CRITICAL OF ROKG ECONOMIC POLICY. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AND KIM TAE-CHUNG QUESTIONED CHANG TO SHOW THAT ECONOMIC CRITICISMS MADE IN MYONGDONG DECLARATION WERE VALID. QUESTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT: A) RURAL LIFE WAS SUFFERING DESPITE ROK ECONOMIC GROWTH; B) ROK ECONOMIC EXPANSION AT EXPENSE OF WAGE
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EARNERS; C) ROK TRADE DEFICITS GROWING DANGEROUSLY; D) ROK

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FOREIGN DEBT HAS MORTGAGED NATION'S FUTURE; E) FOREIGN AND ESPECIALLY JAPANESE INVESTMENT BOUGHT AT COST OF EXPLOTING KOREANS. PROFESSOR CHANG DISAPPOINTED DEFENDANTS WHEN HIS ANALYSIS SHOWED THAT RURAL STANDARDS OF LIVING HAD IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY, THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE WAGE EARNERS WERE BEING EXPLOITED ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DISLOCATIONS AND STRAINS WHICH NORMALLY ACCOMPANY ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION, THAT HE THOUGHT ROK MAKING GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD NARROWING TRADE DEFICITANDTHAT FOREIGN DEBT WAS MANAGEABLE. HE DID THINK THAT THE ROKG SHOULD SPEAK TO THE GOJ TO SEEK IMPROVEMENT IN BEHAVIOR OF CERTAIN JAPANESE FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN KOREA. DEFENSE EXASPERATION WITH WITNESS THEY HAD CALLED SHOWED WHEN YI MUN-YONG ACCUSED PRO-FESSOR CHANG OF GULLIBLY USING ROKG STATISTICS AS BASIS FOR HIS ANALYSIS.

3. AFTERNOON SESSION HEARD TESTIMONY OF ASSEMBLYMAN O SE-UNG AND CHON KWAN-U, FORMER TONGA ILBO CHIEF. O SE-UNG SERVED AS SOUNDINGBOARD FOR KIM TAE-CHUNG QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO SHOW INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN KOREA. IN HIS QUESTIONS KIM TAE-CHUNG MENTIONED VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS OF CONCERN BY U.S. CONGRESS OVER ROKG SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, GULF OIL CONTRIBUTIONS TO DRP AND PAK TONG SUN AND KCIA ACTI-VITIES IN THE U.S. O'S REPLIES AGREED WITH THE DEFENDANTS' CONTENTION THAT GREATER RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY IN KOREA WOULD BOLSTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE NATION'S SECURITY. (COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ASSEMBLYMAN O REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY BEFORE TRIAL SESSION THAT THE ROKG HAD PRESSED HIM NOT TO TESTIFY. O FELT HE HAD TO, HOWEVER, TO RETAIN HIS CREDIBILITY WITH HIS CONSTITUENTS. HE ALSO ARGUED WITH ROKG THAT HIS VERY APPEARANCE WOULD HELP ROKG DEMONSTRATE THAT CRITI-CISM OF GOVERNMENT IS PERMITTED TO SOME EXTENT. END COMMENT.)

4. CHON KWAN-U TESTIFIED UNDER QUESTIONING THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WAS LIMITED. KIM TAE-CHUNG PARTICIPATED IN INTERROGATION OF CHON. KIM'S QUESTIONS GAVE AS EXAMPLES OF LACK OF PRESS FREEDOM TONGA ILBO ADVERTISEMENT SQUEEZE AND FIRING OF REPORTERS, LACK OF MENTION OF PAK TONG-SUN CASE OF KWANGJU INCIDENT IN LOCAL PRESS AND CLIPPING OF ARTICLES FROM TIME AND NEWSWEEK BEFORE SALE IN KOREA.

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5. COURT SET NEXT SESSION FOR NOVEMBER 27. JUDGES, PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS WILL MEET ON NOVEMBER 23 TO REVIEW RECORD OF KIM CHI-HA TRIAL.

6. KOREAN PRESS CARRIED BRIEF ARTICLES ON TRIAL NAMING WITNESSES WHO APPEARED AND NOTING YU CHIN-O'S FAILURE TO APPEAR. PAPERS DID NOT CARRY SUBSTANCE OF EXCHANGES HOWEVER.

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7. COMMENT: KIM TAE-CHUNG PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN DAY'S PROCEEDINGS, ADDRESSING AS MANY QUESTIONS TO WITNESSES AS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS. HIS AGGRESSIVE STYLE SHOWED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF LAPSING INTO SILENCE IN HOPES OF PREPARING THE GROUND FOR ANY IMAGINED ROKG LENIENCY.
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